FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

29 MARCH 1984

Lebanon

Beirut Situation — The security situation "seriously deteriorated" on 28 March as over 20 persons were killed and 100 others were wounded in "indiscriminate" shelling of residential quarters in and around the capital, Beirut radio reported. The shelling was concentrated on the western sector where several men from the Lebanese Army's 6th Brigade were among the casualties, the radio said. Artillery and rocket fire also hit Christian East Beirut and the coastal area up to Antilyas, according to Voice of Lebanon radio. Earlier, an unidentified gunman killed a French lieutenant near the Saudi Embassy in West Beirut, the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio reported.

In the wake of the renewed fighting, both the Security Arrangements Committee and the Higher Political Security Committee held meetings to discuss the security situation, according to Beirut radio. The Higher Political Security Committee, which met in the Presidential Palace under President Amin al-Jumayyil's chairmanship, agreed on "several points" and decided to stop the indiscriminate shelling of residential quarters and open the Museum road under the supervision of the Internal Security Forces, the radio said. The Security Arrangements Committee approved measures for the replacement of the French force, which is expected to operate for several days in conjunction with the Internal Security Forces before withdrawing from Beirut. Despite the withdrawal of its troops, France has agreed to send a 40-man military observation team to Beirut to monitor the cease-fire, AFP reported citing an External Relations Ministry announcement.

In another development, the clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon radio has resumed transmissions and was heard broadcasting a message from Al-Murabitun leader Ibrahim Qulaylat.

Southern Lebanon — Beirut radio reported that 7 people were killed and 30 others were wounded in clashes with Israeli soldiers in the southern township of Jibshit. IDF Radio said the clashes were between Shi'ite villagers and the "southern Lebanese army," which killed 3 villagers and wounded 10 others in an exchange of fire. Several dozen inhabitants were arrested in connection with recent attacks on the IDF, which include an incident on 28 March in which two IDF soldiers were wounded in an ambush north of An-Nabatiyah, according to IDF Radio.

Iran-Iraq War

The Greek tanker hit by an Iraqi missile on 28 March was some 110 km southwest of Khark Island near the Saudi coast at the time of the incident, IRNA announced citing remarks by a spokesman for Iran's War Information Headquarters. Overwhelmed by "war jitters" and frustrated by "repeated political and military defeats," Iraq has resorted to "adventurism" and "insane activities" to create the impression that the Persian Gulf is unsafe, the spokesman added. Since Iran is doing all it can to maintain security in the region, the "whole responsibility" for any mishap jeopardizing the Gulf rests with Iraq, he warned.

Meanwhile, the Iranian military communique broadcast by Tehran radio on 28 March reported that 47 civilians were killed and over 84 were injured in the 27 March Iraqi bombing of the Andimeshk and Pol-e Dokhtar districts of Khorramabad.

Libya

Unless the United States "immediately withdraws" from Egypt and Sudan, Libya will "seriously" consider altering the strategic balance in the area by offering facilities on the Libyan coast to "a superpower which is hostile to the United States," thereby rendering "worthless" U.S. and NATO installations in the Mediterranean, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi declared in a speech broadcast by Tripoli radio. Regarding relations with Egypt, Al-Qadhdhafi announced that Libya will ease travel restrictions and allow free movement of Libyans and Egyptians in both directions. Nevertheless, the Egyptian regime will remain on the "blacklist" unless it emerges from the "Camp David stable," in which case Libya will place all its resources at Egypt's disposal, the Libyan leader affirmed.

Syria

Five men, including a policeman, were executed in Damascus on 28 March for criminal activities ranging from robbery to desertion from military service, SANA announced.

PLO Affairs

Despite the events in northern Lebanon last year, "we want to point out our availability to open a new page with the Syrian Brothers," PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said in remarks reported by APS. Meanwhile, the DFLP, PFLP, the Palestine Liberation Front, and the Palestinian Communist Party issued a joint statement calling for a "wider national front within the framework of the PLO," Aden radio stated. This invitation is open to all factions and personalities and is not meant to be an alternative to the PLO, nor would it set up establishments parallel to it, the four groups stated.

Iran

According to the Interior Ministry, two suspects have been arrested in connection with the 28 March assassination attempts against two Turkish diplomats in Tehran, IRNA reported. Investigations into the identity of another "terrorist" who was killed earlier while attempting to plant a bomb in a car belonging to the Turkish ambassador to Tehran determined that he was a member of an "Armenian terrorist group," Tehran radio added.

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Sikh Leader Dies Following 28 March Attack

BK290316 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 29 Mar 84

[Text] The president of the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara [Temple] Management Committee, Mr Harbans Singh Manchanda, died in New Delhi last night following a cardiac arrest. Mr Manchanda and two others were admitted to the hospital with bullet injuries yesterday. Our correspondent Mohan Singh says doctors successfully performed two operations lasting about 6 hours, but when the operation of the jaw was to take place, Mr Manchanda developed cardiac trouble.

The other three [as heard] injured are improving. They were injured when two Sikh youths fired on them in New Delhi while traveling in a car.

The assailants have escaped. A massive hunt has been launched. A 25,000-rupee reward has been announced for any person providing clues. According to agency reports, an organization with headquarters in Anandpur Sahib has claimed the responsibility for the shooting.

The president, Giani Zail Singh, has expressed grief over the death of Mr Manchanda. He described the killing as an unfortunate act. He said to eliminate a person because of differences is against democratic traditions and Sikhism.

AFP: 'Hit Squad' Responsible

BK281200 Hong Kong AFP in English 1152 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Excerpts] New Delhi, March 28 (AFP) — A Sikh hit squad today shot and seriously wounded two moderate Sikh leaders here who police said were on a "hit list" of followers of hardliner Sikh leader Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale.

Harbang Singh Manchanda, president of the Delhi Sikh Shrines Management Committee, and committee member T.S. Lamba were gunned down by three men in a hail of machiegun fire when their car stopped at a traffic light in central Delhi, police said. The two men, who suffered multiple bullet wounds in the chest and stomach, were in hospital in "very critical" condition, they said. Mr. Machanda's bodyguard and driver were unhurt.

Three attackers, who were following Mr. Manchanda's car, fled in their own vehicle following the shooting, police said, adding that a massive manhunt had been launched to find the killers.

Today's assassination attempt was the first individual attack carried out in the capital by Sikh death squads which, until now, operated primarily in Punjab State.

Meanwhile, two Sikh gunmen in a Punjab villge yesterday shot and killed a leader of the Sikh breakaway Nirankari sect, PTI said in a report from Chandigarh, the state capital. The agency said the unidentified gunmen also wounded two other Nirinkari leaders in the attack, which occurred as the three were returning home from a religious meeting in a village of Sangrur District. The two injured men were taken to Ludhiana hospital where their condition was serious, PTI added.

Gandhi Condemns Attack

BK281618 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] The prime minister has expressed shock at the cowardly attempt on the life of Mr Manchanda and prayed for his complete recovery. In a letter to Mr Manchanda, she said it was tragic that young people were being misguided into attacking the very elements who provide leadership and guidance. This was the part of the mindlessness of extremism which was growing everywhere. Mrs Gandhi said: We must all join to fight such elements who have no place in the country for which the inspiration came from men like Guru Nanek and Mahatama Gandhi.

Stricter Security Expected

BK290734 Hong Kong AFP in English 0722 GMT 29 Mar 84

[By Joel Henri]

[Excerpts] New Delhi, March 29 (AFP) — The Indian government is to announce stricter security measures today following the death during the night of a moderate Sikh leader gunned down yesterday by an alleged Sikh extremist "hit squad." An official communique said that an emergency cabinet meeting drew up the new security plans after the attack in central Delhi against Harbang Singh Marchanda, chief administrator of Sikh temples in the capital. Interior Minister P.C. Sethi will present the measures to parliament today, it added.

In another incident yesterday, a federal police officer was killed and two others injured by a grenade thrown by unidentified attackers in Ferozepur, about 40 kilometers (24 miles) from the Punjab state capital of Chandigarh.

Yesterday's attack was the first against an individual in the capital in 20 months of protest action by Sikhs demanding greater autonomy for Punjab State. Police launched a massive dragnet and announced a reward of 25,000 rupees (2,500 dollars) — more than eight times the national average income — for the killers, who were still at large today.

Meanwhile, the state administration in Punjab, where some 30,000 federal paramilitary troops have already been stationed as a result of the violence, has decided to create 1,000 armed units comprising several dozen men each to guard the state's railways. Section of track have been loosened three times in the past three days in the state in an apparent attempt to derail trains, but the incidents were discovered before any damage was caused.

In a separate development, the Akali Dal yesterday rejected an appeal by leftist parties and unions in Punjab for a reconciliation aimed at allowing harvests to begin on schedule April 13. Punjab, a rich wheat-farming state, lost an estimated 45 million dollars last year as a result of the political troubles, the conservative *FINANCIAL EXPRESS* has reported.

Reports from Chandigarh said that leftist party militants, including Communist Party members and trade unionists, yesterday vowed to resort to violence in countering attacks by armed Sikh extremists. At a meeting in the state capital, the political activists

said several of their number had been attacked in recent weeks during marches for "peace and harmony in Punjab."

2 Injured by 'Terrorist Activities' in Punjab

BK290310 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 29 Mar 84

[Text] In Punjab two persons were injured seriously in two different incidents of terrorist activities last night. A shopkeeper was injured when some unidentified persons fired at him in village (Badni Kalan) in Faridpur district. In the other incident, one person was injured when a bomb exploded earlier this morning in a Central Reserve Police Force camp in village (Dharamkot) in Ferozepur district.

Sri Lanka's Amirthalingam Meets Rao, Rasgotra

BK281626 Hong Kong AFP in English 1607 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] New Delhi, March 28 (AFP) — Sri Lankan Tamil leader Appapillai Amirthalingam today conferred with Indian Foreign Minister Narasimha Rao and Foreign Secretary M.K. Rasgotra on the ethnic problem in the island state, a Foreign Office spokesman said. Mr Amirthalingam, secretary general of the main Tamil political party, the Tamil United Liberation Front, held a three-hour meeting with Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's special envoy on the Sri Lankan problem, G. Parthasarathy, soon after this arrival here yesterday.

The spokesman declined to disclose details of the discussions, but press reports said the Tamil leader had conveyed his fears that the Sri Lankan Government was planning to unleash violence in the Tamil-dominated areas of the island on the pretext of curbing terrorism. He had also told the Indian leaders that the postponement of all-party discussions in Colombo had affected the peace process and the prospects of a solution now were dim, the *DAILY TIMES* of India said. The paper said Mr Amirthalingam also referred in his talks to reports that Tamil guerrillas were being trained in Tamil Nadu, South India. He felt the reports were being spread by the Sri Lankan Government as part of a scheme to prepare the ground for persecution of Tamils, the *TIMES* said.

Spokesman Regrets Killing of Sri Lanka Tamils

BK281617 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] A PTI report from Colombo quotes a government communique as saying that men of the Sri Lanka Air Force today killed seven people of Tamil origin and wounded some others at Chunakam in the northern province. The communique says that the Air Force personnel fired on a group of terrorists when fired upon. In a subsequent incident at Mallakam, several people received injuries.

In New Delhi, an official spokesman expressed India's regret at the incidents. He said: We profoundly regret the recourse to violence. The Government of India hopes that normalcy will be restored and the political process initiated recently will lead to an enduring solution to the ethnic problem.

The leader of the Tamil United Liberation Front, Mr Amirthalingam, said in New Delhi that the killings were most reprehensible. He said the fears of fresh violence against Tamils under the pretext of antiterrorist offensive have been confirmed.

Barbed Wire Work on Bangladesh Border Begins

BK280425 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] In Assam, work on barbed wire border with Bangladesh has begun. The fence is being erected as part of the government's package of measures to prevent infiltration. The work started yesterday at (Ramrai Kuti) near the trijunction of Assam, West Bengal, and Bangladesh.

Parliament Briefed on Nuclear Power Situation

BK280908 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] The Lok Sabha was assured today that the country's nuclear program has not suffered because of shortage of enriched uranium and heavy water. The minister of state for science and technology, Mr Shivraj Patil, said our nuclear power program is primarily based on heavy water reactors using natural uranium as fuel and heavy water as moderator and cooling agents. The policy is to continue the setting up of a series of heavy water reactor units of 235 megawatts. For this the design has been standardized.

The house was informed that no offer of financial aid has been received from any foreign country for our atomic energy projects. The minister also informed that the total installed capacity of nuclear power is about 1,100 megawatts. About 70 percent of this is being utilized at present.

Polling in Progress for 60 Rajya Sabha Seats

BK290758 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 29 Mar 84

[Text] Polling is in progress for the 60 Rajya Sabha seats from 13 states and the union territory of Delhi. There are 94 candidates in the field. The statewise breakup of seats for today's biennial election is Uttar Pradesh: 11; Mahrashtra and Bihar, 7 each; Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, 6 each; Gujarat, Karnataka, and Orissa, 4 each; Assam and Rajasthan, 3 each; 2 from Haryana; and 1 each from Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, and Delhi. The union minister of state for steel and mines, Mr N.K.P. Salve, Mr Vishwabandhu Gupta, Mr Basudeva Panikar, Mr Raj Narain, Mr S.G. Kulkarni, Mr Raj Bahadur, Dr Sarojini Mahishi, Mr M.S. Gurupada Swami, Mrs Ambika Soni, Mr Kalka Das, Mr Bapu Saheb Kaldatte, and the industrialist, Mr K.K. Birla, are among the candidates.

Counting of votes will start this evening. For the lone seat of Meghalaya, the election will be held on Saturday.

Congress-I Leading

BK291247 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 29 Mar 84

[Excerpts] The Congress-I has bagged so far 31 of the 51 seats in the Rajya Sabha biennial election. These include seven candidates of the party who were earlier declared unopposed. In all 73 seats are to be filled.

Among the parties Telegu Desam captured five seats in Andhra Pradesh. The only other seat from the state went to Congress-I. All India Anna-Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam [AIADMK] bagged four seats in Tamil Nadu, while the remaining two seats were shared by the Dravia Munnetra Kazhagam [DMK] and Congress-I.

Janata Party has so far secured four seats, three from Karnataka and one from Maharashtra. The Bhartiya Janata Party [BJP] has won so far two seats, one from Madhya Pradesh and the other from Gujarat. Its candidate in Gujarat was supported by opposition parties.

As already reported, CPI-M has won three seats from West Bengal and Forward Bloc one from the same state. The fifth seat went to the Congress-I.

Here is latest tally: results declared, 51; Congress-I, 31; Telegu Desam, 5; AIADMK, 4; Janata Party, 4; CPI-M, 3; BJP, 2; Forward Bloc, 1; DMK, 1.

Dockworkers Call Government Offer Inadequate

BK281615 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] Further talks were held in New Delhi today between the shipping and transport minister, Mr Vijaya Bhaskara Reddy, and the representatives of the port and dock workers. An official spokesman said some more exercises are to be made and exchange of some additional information was considered necessary. The package proposals offered by the government were reported to have come in for further discussion. The talks will be resumed tomorrow.

Representatives of the port and dock workers federations said the ministry has agreed to give more details about revision of basic pay structure of the striking workers by tomorrow. The federation in a joint statement described the ministry's offer to increase the total wage bill of port and dock workers by over 390 million rupees as inadequate.

The statement said the workers have demanded house rents and city compensatory allowances at the rate applicable to employees of the Steel Authority of India in concerned port cities. The sigantories to the statement include Mr S.R. Kulkarni, Mr Janaki Mukherja, Mr Indrajit Gupta, Mr (M.M. Lawrence).

According to official sources, movement of essential commodities from major port is continuing.

Continnental Shelf Survey Reveals Mineral Wealth

BK280907 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] The results of the survey undertaken so far to know about our ocean wealth have been highly encouraging. This was stated by the prime minister in reply to a question in the Lok Sabha today. Mrs Gandhi said the survey of the entire western continental shelf and about a third of the eastern continental shelf has been completed. Deposits containing appreciable quantities of titanium and some vanadium have been located at the Ratanagiri offshore. Deposits of many other minerals have also been identified in the seabed.

Briefs

Economic Growth Rate — The union finance minister, Mr Pranab Mukherjee, has said India's economy is poised to obtain the growth rate envisaged in the sixth plan. The minister said the economy maintained an average growth rate of 5 percent for 4 years in the sixth plan. The average growth rate in the previous 5-year plan was about 3.5 percent. He said the economy kept its buoyancy despite drought and worldwide recession. [Excerpts] [Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 25 Mar 84 BK]

Sugar Exports — India exported 850,000 tons of sugar during 1982-83 as against an international quota of 650,000 tons allotted to it. This has been disclosed by the union commerce minister, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh. [Text] [Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 25 Mar 84 BK]

Appointment of Governors — Appointment of new governors for five states and union territory of Delhi has been announced. A presidential notification to this effect was issued in New Delhi this evening. Mr Bhishma Narain Singh, a former union minister, will be the new governor of Assan and Meghalaya in place of Mr Prakash Mehrotra. The governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Mr B.K. Nehru, will take over as the governor of Gujarat from the present incumbent, Mr K.M. Chandy, who will be the new governor of Madhya Pradesh in place of Mr Bhagwat Dayal Sharma. The lieutenant governor of Delhi, Mr Jagmohan, will replace Mr B.K. Nehru as the governor of the Jammu and Kashmir. Mr P.G. Gawai will take over as the lieutenant governor of Delhi. [Text] [Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Mar 84 BK]

Cable Link With UAE — India and th United Arab Emirates have agreed to lay an 1,100-nautical-mile-long submarine telephone cable link between Bombay and Fujayrah port in UAE. The 90-crore-rupee project seeks to strengthen the overseas communication service between the two countries. The estimated cost will be shared equally by the two countries. An agreement on this was signed in Bombay today. It will be completed in 3 years' time. [Text] [Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 26 Mar 84 BK]

Zia on Gulf War, India, U.S. Military Bases

GF281402 Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 26 Mar 84 pp 1, 22

[Report on interview with President Ziaul Haq by *AS-SIYASAH* correspondent in Islamabad Fayiz Karkutli 25 March]

[Excerpts][Karkutli] You know the extent to which the countries of the Arabian Peninsula have been affected as a result of the Iran-Iraq war. How do you view this war and what is the solution to stop this bloodshed, especially since Iran is still refusing all efforts toward this end?

[Ziaul Haq] I am proud of being the first to conduct these peace efforts, as I was the first Muslim head of state to visit Iraq and Iran 5 days after the conflict between the two countries erupted. The stand of the two countries is the same as it has been since the war erupted. Pakistan has been a member of the good offices committee for the past 3 and ½ years. We did our best, but there have been no encouraging responses.

However, a word of truth must be said. Whenever the topic of the Iraq-Iran war surfaces, I always say that this war poses great dangers not only by shedding Muslim blood but also by exhausting financial and economic resources. There are a lot of wasted resources which can build the entire Islamic nation. Unfortunately the Iranian stand is still obstinate and it is difficult to convince them although Iraq has always expressed a flexible stand on this matter. Unfortunately none of us has been able to gather both sides at the negotiating table.

I don't see a quick solution for this today although I heard today (yesterday) that Algeria has proposed a plan to settle the dispute and I can only express my wishes for the success of this initiative. Let us all pray for the settlement of this dispute.

The Pakistani president answered a question on the development of the situation between Pakistan and India and whether there are any efforts to stop any deterioration in relations and said: Pakistan is a Muslim country and I always say that Islam is peace. Thus, we are trying to steer relations with India in the direction of peace and through the means of peace. As you know, there were three wars with them. I think, for the benefit of their own peoples, both countries should pursue a peace policy in this regard. Although Pakistan made several steps on its part in this direction, the response was not encouraging. We are now in a peaceful defensive position. Peace! We want a peace with India that is combined with respect, and such peace will not be accepted except on the basis of equal terms. We will succeed. There are encouraging signs. Sometimes obstacles emerge along the way, but so far we have been able to overcome them.

The steps which have been taken by the two countries and the joint committee which began its meetings earlier will reach political solutions for their problems.

The discussion with the Pakistani president moved to the problems of the Afghan refugees, whether these problems will become similar to the Palestinian refugee problem, whether Pakistan has a solution for them, and what is required from the Islamic world to contribute to the settlement of this problem.

The Pakistani president said: "Our efforts are concentrated on solving the refugee problem in Peshawar, but there are 2.2 million refugees in the northwest and 1.8 million refugees in the northern province. Those must be returned to their country. We pray to God that Afghanistan can attain the freedom to determine its future and the refugees can go home." But President Ziaul Haq said: "If Afghanistan cannot achieve this, we shall have no choice but to accommodate them here in this country. Pakistan has proclaimed itself a land for all Islamic peoples; that is, any Muslim can come and settle here."

The Pakistani president concluded his statement by denying rumors of the presence of U.S. military bases in Pakistan. He said: "Yes, it is 100 percent a joke and a lie in the 15th Hegirah century and in the 20th century, but I would like to say that we said to the Americans the following: Our relations with you are very sensitive because we are a member of the Nonaligned Movement; we like to buy your equipment but at the same time we would like to express our intention of not offering you any military bases and therefore we hope that you don't ask this from us. Yes, there are no U.S. bases in Pakistan."

President Leaves for Conakry To Attend Toure Funeral

BK290649 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 29 Mar 84

[Text] President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq left Islamabad for Conakry this morning to attend the funeral of the late president of Guinea, Ahmed Sekou Toure, who is being laid to rest tomorrow. The president is accompanied by Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and also the foreign secretary. The Federal Advisory Council chairman, federal ministers, and senior officials saw the president off at the airport.

Appointment of New Ambassador to India Announced

BK261624 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] The Pakistan Government has announced the appointment of Dr M. Humayun Khan as the ambassador of Pakistan to India. Dr Humayun Khan, who is a senior diplomat, is rendering services as an additional secretary in the Foreign Ministry.

It has been learned that Riaz Piracha, the current Pakistani ambassador to New Delhi, is being entrusted with another diplomatic responsibility.

Religious, Minorities Affairs Minister Announced

BK281536 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] The president has entrusted the responsibilities of the Ministry of Religious and Minority Affairs to Federal Information and Broadcasting Minister Raja Mohammad Zafarul Haq as of the 19th of this month.

TIMES Reports on Moscow-Trained Afghans

GF281340 Rawalpindi PAKISTAN TIMES in English 16 Mar 84 p 6

[Text] Recent drastic changes in Afghanistan's politburo and army indicate that a new generation of Afghan communists, trained in Moscow and Soviet Central Asia, is replacing the taction-ridden older generation of Kabul communists, who seized power in 1978.

According to estimates between 15,000 and 20,000 of Afghanistan's most talented young people have been awarded scholarships in Soviet universities in the past six years. The first batch of these Soviet-trained technocrats are now back at home to take places in the army, the civil service and the ruling People's Democratic (Communist) Party, as well as more humble jobs in the post office and telephone department.

All have learned to speak fluent Russian and have been moulded to the Soviet concept of a Marxist revolution. All return home to become People's Democratic Party members, well-versed in Marxism-Leninism.

Moscow has failed to bring together the two warring factions in the People's Democratic Party — Khalk and Parcham. Both former Khalk president Tarraki and Amin, were killed but, despite support from Soviet troops, the Parcham leader, Babrak Karmal, has been unable to weld the party together. The regime faces not only the resistance of the Afghan guerillas, but also internal pressures from continued strife within the ruling party, strife that has claimed many lvies.

With its long term strategy of stabilising the revolutionary regime in Kbaul, Moscow appears convinced that the only way to do so is to replace the older generation with young communists who did not grow up in the faction-torn atmosphere of the past.

The country's only university at Kabul is now reported to be only a staging post. The best students are syphoned off in their first year, given a basic course in the Russian language and then flown to colleges in the Soviet Union. Reliable figures are hard to come by, but it appears that during the past year some 3,000 Afghans have returned home from the Soviet Union to take up key positions.

Response to Afghan Provocations: Restraint

GF281235 Rawalpindi PAKISTAN TIMES in English 15 Mar 84 p 6

[Editorial: "Restraint Versus Provocations"]

[Text] In answer to a query at Peshawar as to why Pakistan was not taking retaliatory measures against the Afghan air raids on its territory, President Ziaul Haq reiterated the need for restraint in the face of temptations to jeopardise the lives of the Afghan people and the peace of the region itself. The query was no doubt an innocent reaction to the repeated violation of Pakistan's air space by the Karmal regime gunships and air craft. The pattern of raids, the last of which was undertaken by MiG-21 planes in the Kurram Agency, indicates a programmed effort to draw Pakistan into war that would escalate hostilities on the Pak-Afghan border and distract attention from what is going on inside Afghanistan since 1979 when the Soviet troops first landed in Kabul to set up a regime whose writ the fiercely independent Afghans have not accepted so far. The civil war that was unleashed by foreign intervention has shown no signs of abating and a gradual reinforcement of the Soviet Army in Afghanistan has not succeeded in changing the status quo of the war. It is thus understandable that the regime in Kabul and its mentors are now looking for desperate remedies.

It is not that Pakistan is helpless to mount a counter-action to fight off the air raids. In fact, it has the capacity to defend its territory and to prevent the Karmal air force from undertaking their trespasses. Were it to mount such a defensive action, however, there are a number of factors to be considered. First of all, the action will immediately alter the status of the war in Afghanistan and escalate it into an international conflict. Secondly, it will be a conflict in which the peoples of the two countries would be made to suffer the consequences without any emotional commitment on the side of the Karmal regime.

Staged inside Pakistan or inside Afghanistan, the people who would suffer casualties of this war would be Pakistani and Afghan nationals who are in fact bound in ties of fraternity. Most of the tragic consequences of such a conflict would be borne by the Afghan nationals seeking shelter inside Pakistan as refugees and on their side of the border as freedom fighters against foreign intervention. Moreover, such a conflict holds the prospect of widening into a regional war into which a number of other countries would also become involved for the sake of their security. This is furthest from the intentions of Pakistan as reflected in its overall approach to the Afghanistan crisis. It has all along advocated a peaceful and negotiated settlement of the situation created by the military intervention and has built up an international climate of opinion through its diplomatic efforts at the U.N., the ICO and NAM [Nonaligned Movement].

The campaign of persuasion which is predicated on a four-point formula ensuring safe return of the 3 million Afghan refugees has grown into a pressure that neither Kabul nor Moscow can ignore. While Pakistan is carefully monitoring the violation of its airspace it has to see that it does not play into the hands of the offending party by taking the sort of action that would impair its international campaign for a peaceful solution.

Paper Denounces Soviet Envoy's 'Advice'

GF280527 Lahore NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu 22 Mar 84 p 3

[Editorial: "The Soviet Envoy's Indian Logic!"]

[Excerpts] The Soviet ambassador to Pakistan, Vitaliy Smirnov, has said that it is the responsibility of both Pakistan and the Soviet Union to expand trade facilities and increase mutual trade as the Soviet Union does not demand any favors in exchange for economic cooperation, nor does it exert any pressure. He said this when he was interviewed in Karachi at the opening of the Soviet trade fair.

In this interview, Mr Smirnov said certain things that have implications and background which the people of Pakistan cannot ignore. We are referring to his statement, or rather advice, that Pakistan does not need arms. Instead, it needs friendly economic relations with neighboring countries. When his attention was drawn to the large-scale supply of modern Soviet armaments to India, his answer was: "Do not compare yourselves to other countries. Come closer to your friendly and neighboring countries."

This statement by the Soviet ambassador is tantamount to aiding and abetting the logic of the Indian rulers, who are stockpiling billions of dollars of the most sophisticated long-range arms from Great Britain, France, the FRG, and the Soviet Union, and is also manufacturing them on license from these countries. If Pakistan even mentions purchase of arms on a limited scale from the United States, however, India raises a furor and a storm of protest, accusing Pakistan of initiating an arms race, and begins wailing about the danger of an attack by Pakistan. It is joined by the Soviet Union, and they ignore the fact that there is a huge difference in the military strength of India and Pakistan — a difference evident even to a blind man!

If we view the Soviet ambassador's utterances in the light of the above, then it can be deduced that, like the Indian rulers, the Soviet Union also wants Pakistan to remain weak and unarmed and India to become a minisuperpower in the region under the Soviet Union's patronage.

The Soviet envoy's advice to Pakistan can mean only one thing: Pakistan should bow to the Soviet military occupation of Afghanistan and its concomitant evils, accept the preponderance of its ally, India, in the region, and resign itself to the same capacity assigned to some East European countries like Hungary, Poland, Czechoslovakia, and so on which are forced to accept their destiny.

In his interview, the Soviet ambassador indirectly advised Pakistan to condemn Western imperialism and aggression in Grenada, Lebanon, and so on but to support the overt Soviet aggression in Afghanistan, just as India is doing. The Soviet ambassador said in a very demagogic tone that it does not behoove any individual, government, or country to remain silent on the issue of aggression. Therefore, aggressors must be vociferously and openly condemned. The question is: What does the Soviet ambassador have to say about a full-scale military occupation of a sovereign, traditionally independent, and nonaligned country like Afghanistan? What name can be given to the Soviet operation if not aggression? The UN General Assembly and the Nonaligned Movement have repeatedly urged the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan in their resolutions. So why has the Soviet Union not paid the slightest heed to them when it proclaims to be the champion of world peace? Undoubtedly, the Soviet Union is a superpower and Pakistan is desirous and appreciative of friendly relations with it. But the Soviet ambassador's advice to Pakistan — in a sycophantic repetition of India's logic — that Pakistan should become oblivious of its defense, independence, and freedom and be reduced to a marginal position of subservience to Moscow is one piece of advice that is not even worth considering, much less obeying!

MUSLIM: U.S. Involvement in Gulf Intolerable

GF261454 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 23 Feb 84 p 4

[Editorial: "And Now Grenada — II"]

[Text] Super powers, it seems, like other mortal beings, never learn from their mistakes. As a result, there seems to be some sort of a masochistic desire to go on dangerously familar paths with predictable results. The latest example is the announcement by a spokesman of the United States' 7th Fleet that an American Navy battle-group led by the aircraft carrier *"Midway"* is operating in the Arabian Sea, perilously close to the theatre of the Gulf war. The ostensible reason for this move, which is bound to raise the political temperature of the troubled region, is to keep "the Straits of Hormuz open". This argument does not make any sense given the fact that the international water-way is very much open and there are no indications to-date of its imminent closure. Is it that the Americans are planning a Grenada-style "intervention by invitation", courtesy local proxies?

Concurrently, defence ministers of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) have ended their deliberations on a "common defence strategy in the Gulf oil region". According to reports, the closing statement referred "to the question of safeguarding the security of the region" on account of the critical circumstances facing the Gulf region and the Arab world. In a statement issued from London, the British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has publicly stated that her country's warships could join in to back any American military action to maintain the Gulf oil supplies that may be 'threatened' by the Iran-Iraq war. Fresh from a rather humiliating military and political debacle in Lebanon, the Reagan Administration seems to be keen to seek another opportunity for the reassertion of America's lost manhood. Having failed to impose a decision by diktat on the people of Lebanon who have heroically resisted the American attempts at Zionification of their already troubled country, the United States now seeks to impose its hegemony over the Gulf region by threatening revolutionary Iran in the same manner as it tried to bully Syria.

The myopic geo-strategists based in Washington need to understand that the Gulf region is not another Caribbean and Iran is certainly not Grenada. The Islamic Revolution has managed to mobilise millions of politically-conscious people who not only overthrew a quasi-fascist monarchy but also resisted interference and manipulations from both super powers. We would also hope that the governments of the Gulf as well as our own government will not acquiesce in any Western attempt to intervene in the Gulf war since such an intervention will not only be inimical to the principles of the United Nations Charter, the Non-Aligned Movement and the Organisation of Islamic Conference but also jeopardise peace and security in the region.

Seminar Issues Resolutions on Nuclear Issues

GF281400 Rawalpindi PAKISTAN TIMES in English 12 Mar 84 p 6

[Text] The participants to the one-day seminar on "nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament — the Muslim perspective", which concluded here yesterday unanimously called upon the

Muslim states to pool their resources for acquiring nuclear technology in particular and other technologies in general for "furthering their socio-economic development".

Through another adopted resolution the seminar urged the need for freezing of all forms of nuclear weapons and disgcontinuance of their development. It added that nuclear weapons in stockpile be progresively dismantled and nuclear materials so recovered put to peaceful purposes only.

Yet another resolution called upon all the Muslim organisations throughout the world, official and non-official to address themselves seriously to this issue and co-operate with each other in exchanging views on a joint response and plan of action to save this world from the scourge of nuclear arms and the threat of nuclear annihilation.

That all efforts should be made to inculcate an increasing awareness amongst people everywhere, said the other resolution, of the enormous resources connected to the development of nuclear weapons, and which is a direct cause of the inability of the world. Despite the levels of technology and material prosperity achieved in some states to tackle the problems of hunger disease, ignorance, lack of humanity today, particularly in the Third World countries.

Increasing awareness must be created about the fact that the danger of war in any shape cannot be eliminated, unless a sincere effort is made to tackle the cause of war, which is the existence of injustice — political, social and economic — and its replacement with a new international order. The new international order should be on the principle of peace based on justice. On the unity of the human family and on the right of every single human to a life of security and dignity and to the pursuit of his or her welfare within the framework of the rule of law and the supreme dictates of truth, added another adopted resolution.

All states of the world, said yet other adopted resolution respond positively to the constructive proposals for the establishment of nuclear weapons free zones in Africa, the Middle East and South Asia as contained in various resolutions adopted by the United Nations, the Organisation of Islamic Conference and other international forums.

The seminar resolved further that all Muslim states sincerely and seriously cooperate with all relevant international forums for the realisation of the above objectives so as to strengthen in particular the security of non-nuclear weapon states with a view to building a better and safer tomorrow.

"Whereas, the era of nuclear arms has brought an entirely new and deadly dimension to wars and conflicts, putting the very survival of the planet as an habitat for human beings in jeopardy by causing catastrophic destruction of mankind through outright killing radiation induced damages and gross alteration of the environment.

"And, whereas, the stockpiling of nuclear weapons, both strategic and tactical, is incrasing day by day, so are the states possessing these weapons and new nuclear weapons are becoming increasingly sophisticated and destructive as evidenced through innumerable nuclear explosions.

"And, whereas, all negotiations regarding nuclear disarmament have so far produced no satisfactory results, and the production of all kinds of nuclear weapons of mass destruction, either for limited or total war, continues unabated.

"And whereas the teachings of Islam, as contained in the Holy Koran and the examples of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) command Muslims to uncompromisingly oppose the use of any such barbaric instruments of death as there is no room in Islam for indiscriminate killings and destruction.

"And whereas the teachings of Islam exhort Muslims to pursue the acquisition and utilisation of knowledge in all forms for the welfare of humanity and consequently they support the acquisition of nuclear technology for peaceful and beneficial purposes, and whereas these principles are applicable to all mankind.

"And whereas the teachings of Islam are for the benefit of all mankind. It is imperative for the Ummah Islamiya to close its ranks to evolve and implement a co-ordinated and unified response to the various challenges of our time."

The participants through an adopted resolution congratulanar — the Motamar al-Alam al-Islami and the Karachi University for forcussing attention on this vital issue in a manner which will hopefully be emulated by other organisations and institutions in the Ummah Islamiya.

Habib Chatti Message

GF281346 Rawalpindi PAKISTAN TIMES in English 12 Mar 84 p 6

[Text] Dr. Habib Chatti, secretary-general of the Organisation of Islamic Conference said here that the OIC has been "most conscious" of nuclear dangers and the stand of the member states has been "unequivocal and consistent."

In a message to the research seminar on "nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament — the Muslim perspective" held at a local hotel yesterday which was read out by Mr Ahmed Kamal, adviser of OIC Dr Chatti said there has been on the one hand, an enunciation of the principle that nuclear disarmament must be universal and non-discriminatory and that non-proliferation can be furthered only if the international community develops and takes effective measures to ensure the security of non-nuclear weapons states through a binding international convention to protect them against the threats or use of nuclear weapons.

He said at the same time, the OIC has called for the establishment of nuclear-weapons free zones in Africa, the Middle East and South Asia, as one of the measures which can most effectively guarantee the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, and lead to general and complete disarmament.

"Let us try to do away with nuclear weapons altogether, let us try to contain them by non-proliferation accompanied by adequate guarantees, but if despite our efforts we find that a nuclear threat is here to stay, then let us build up such strengths as can guarantee a safe and peaceful future for us and our children" Dr Chatti added.

He expressed the hope that the seminar will be a step forward in crystallising our own thoughts and in assuring all of our dedication to peace in a nuclear world and of our commitment to the honour of Muslim ummah.

Economic-Technical Accord Signed With Bahrain

GF230909 Karachi DAWN in English 18 Mar 84 p 1

[From the Economic and Business Review section]

[Text] Islamabad, March 17 — Pakistan and Bahrain signed here on Saturday a joint agreement identifying a number of areas for collaboration between the countries in economic, commercial, technical and educational fields.

The joint agreement was signed at the conclusion of three-day meeting of Pakistan-Bahrain Joint Committee, which concluded here on Saturday. Mr. 'Issa 'Abdallah Abu Rushayd, under secretary, Ministry of Finance and National Economy of Bahrain and the secretary-general Economic Affairs Division, Mr Ejaz Ahmed Naik, signed the statement on behalf of their respective governments.

The two sides reviewed the development of trade between Pakistan and Bahrain and agreed that in order to increase trade between the two countries, contacts between businessmen of the respective sides should be encouraged and expanded.

Possibilities of further increasing the export of fruits, vegetables and wheat to Bahrain were discussed and it was agreed that there were potentials to increase the export of these items to Bahrain.

The delegation of Bahrain expressed its desire to import wheat from Pakistan to meet its annual requirement of about 20,000 tons of wheat.

The Pakistan delegation stated that a representative of PASSCO [Pakistan Agricultural Storage and Services Corporation] would be sent to Bahrain to contact the Bahrain Flour Mill Company in this regard.

The Bahraini delegation expressed interest in the field of manpower planning and development, manpower statistics, wage policy, training of instructors and apprentices, rural women's training and development, treatment of juveniles and handicapped persons.

The Pakistan side agreed to offer assistance to Bahrain in preparing manpower plan, laying down the methodology for collection, tabulation and analysis of manpower statistics and in conducting surveys for regular collection of these statistics, training of instructors and apprentices, and developing syllabi and training of skilled workers in vocational institutions.

The Pakistan side offered industrial cooperation to Bahrain in supply of plants and equioment produced at the Heavy Mechanical Complex, Pakistan Machine Tool Factory and Pakistan Engineering Company. Besides, Pakistan Machine Tool Factory could assist Bahrain in setting up a technical training centre by way of turn-key project.

It was agreed by the two sides that Pakistan Automobile Corporation's technical team would visit Bahrain to examine the possibility of using Bahrain aluminium for extrusion, pressure die casting, sheet metal production etc.

Paksitan side informed the Bahraini delegation that an invitation has been extended by the chairman of Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry to the president of the Bahrain Chammber of Commerce and Industry to send a trade delegation to Pakistan.

The Paksitan side also informed the Bahrain side that the Federation was holding an industrial trade fair in Karachi in November this year and the Bahrain has been invited to participate the far.

The Bahraini side expressed interest in the opening of the Bahraini National Bank in Pakistan. The Pakistan side agreed to this proposal and stated that the Baraini Bank may be asked to submit an official request in this regard.

Both sides agreed to hold the second meeting of the Joint Committee in Bahrain next year. The date of the meeting would be decided later through normal diplomatic channels. — PPI

Turkish Diplomats Hospitalized; Suspects Arrested

LD281716 Tehran IRNA in English 1640 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] Tehran, March 28, IRNA — Two Turkish Embassy staffers were injured one of them seriously in two assassination attempts here this morning.

Hasan Oktem, first secretary of the Turkish Embassy here was shot and wounded by two armed men riding past him on a motor cycle, at 08:10 hours local time. Three bullets hit him in his abdomen, face, and shoulder. The terrorists managed to escape the scene, but by noon the Interior Ministry said here two suspects had been arrested in relations with the assassination attempts. Hasan Oktem was shot at while he was driving his car to the Turkish Embassy in downtown Tehran.

The second embassy official, Ismail Pamukcu, was shot wounded at 08:20 but in a different location at Africa Street in uptown Tehran. Pamukcu, an assistant military attache of the Turkish Embassy here is suffering from severe injuries to his head, and abdomen. He underwent a 4-hour surgical operation at highly equipped Shohada Hospital, the closest to the site of the incidents. His attending surgeon says he is now in a relatively better condition. He said, however, that the Turkish official is still in a coma.

Political deputy of Foreign Ministry, Hoseyn Sheikh ol-Eslam, visited the two Turkish diplomats minutes after they were taken to the Shohada hospital here. He deplored the assassination attempt and expressed hope that the two Turkish officials would soon recover.

In related news one person said by the Interior Ministry to be a member of "a secret Armenian terrorist group" was killed as a hand-made bomb went off in his hand at Fereshteh Street in uptown Tehran last night. He was about to place the bomb in the car of another Turkish embassy member here.

Interior Ministry Statement

LD281722 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1637 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] Concerning the assassination attempt on the members of the Turkish Embassy in Tehran, the Interior Ministry issued the following statement:

The terrorist who last night intended to place a bomb in the car belonging to the Turkish ambassador to Tehran was killed by an explosion while attempting to place the bomb. During the investigation carried out it became clear that the said person was one of the members of an Armenian terrorist group.

Following that explosion, at 0830 and 0900 today, another two members of the Turkish Embassy were subjected to an assassination attempt and were wounded and are at present in the hospital. The investigation and identification of the terrorist elements continue.

A report by our correspondent indicates that following the wounding of two members of the Turkish Embassy, Ismail Pamukcu, assistant military attache at the embassy, and Hasan Oktem, first secretary to the Turkish Embassy, this morning Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam, political under secretary to our country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, accompanied by a number of officials from that ministry, visited those injured during this incident at the Shohada Hospital this morning. During the visit the political under secretary to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, expressing regret for this incident, denounced this terrorist action.

ASALA Claims Responsibility, Warns Airlines

NC291000 Paris AFP in English 0945 GMT 29 Mar 84

[Text] Tehran, March 29 (AFP) — Armenian extremists today threatened all foreign airlines flying to Turkey that "our military units are ready throughout the world" to attack them. The threat was made in an anonymous telephone call to the AFP bureau on behalf of the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (ASALA).

The speaker, who spoke in Farsi with a strong Armenian accent, was the same man who yesterday telephoned AFP to claim ASALA's responsibility in a series of attacks on staff members of the Turkish Embassy here in which two diplomats were wounded and an attacker killed.

The caller, reading "Communique number three", said: "Our military units are ready throughout the world. We are warning all imperialist or aggressive regimes which aid Fascist Turkey, as well as all airlines flying to Turkey that our operations are going to continue and the results will be bloody." "Turkey will be responsible for all loss of life," the caller said.

Iran has a 250,000-strong Armenian community but also has good relations with Turkey.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,697

LD281708 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Communique No 1,697 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In the Marivan and Panjwin operational sector yesterday, the combatant units of Islam, using artillery and mortar fire, halted enemy fire, prevented Iraqi canal digging and personnel movement, and killed or wounded a number of Saddamists.

In the Sumar operational sector, an enemy patrol group which had been commissioned to infiltrate our forces' defensive lines, was forced to flee as a result of our forces' vigilance and timely fire, which inflicted losses on the enemy.

In the Abadan and Khorramshahr operational sector, exchanges of fire continued and our combatant units stationed on the Arvand Rud shores opened fire on enemy positions across the Arvand Rud, halting enemy traffic on the Al-Faw-Basra road. In addition, 13 weapons and observation trenches and posts were destroyed by our forces.

As a result of enemy bombing of two villages in the Andimeshk and Pole-e-Dokhtar districts of Khorramabad, 47 of our civilian compatriots were martyred and over 84 were injured yesterday. A number of houses were destroyed. Enemy shelling of Abadan destroyed 19 houses, 6 shops, and 1 building.

Commander Affirms Control of Majnun Islands
LD281957 Tehran IRNA in English 1935 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] Ahvaz, March 28, IRNA — A military commander said at a press interview here Tuesday that the Baghdad regime had taken a group of foreign reporters to an area called Shoteitat in south of the Majnun Islands, with one oil well only and pretended to them that they were at the Majnun Islands which are in reality under the occupation of the Iranian forces.

He said the deceptive act was part of a large-scale but futile campaign by Baghdad for saving its face at the international scene. Said the commander "Iran's Muslim forces now have under their full control Huwayzah (inside Iraq). We can cut off the connection lines between the Iraq's Third and Fourth Armies in Basra and 'Amarah any time we decide to do so."

He added also that the Iranian combatants had launched their latest offensive (Khaybar) on February 22 in order to cut off the Basra-'Amarah highway and that they had long since attained their targeted goals.

The commander said also that during the Iranians thrust into the islands and in ensuing encounters with the Iraqi forces they had captured more than 1,000 Iraqi soldiers and also seized 50-plus vehicles, 30 loaders, 10 tanks, and tens of anti-aircraft guns. He said also that sometime after Iran's liberation of the islands, the Iraqi troops launched several but futile attacks for taking back the islands each time suffering heavy casualties. He said so far the Iraqi forces had launched a total of 10 counter-attacks deploying their third, fifth and six armoured divisions. During the counter-attacks, he said Iraq's Sixth Armoured Division was damaged to as much as 80 percent, and that armoured brigade number 56 of Iraq had been virtually destroyed.

A deputy commander of the Ground forces lauded Iran's Muslim fighters in the interview and described the Khaybar offensive as having been "one of the most brilliant operations ever performed in the southern fronts" by the Iranian forces. The Majnun Islands occupy an area of about 170 square kilometres in Huwayzah west of the southern part of Iran-Iraq border. The Iraqi forces now have under control less than 15 square kilometres on the southernmost parts of the islands toward Talayeh.

Reporters See Chemical Weapons in Majnun Islands
LD281916 Tehran IRNA in English 1830 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] Ahvaz, March 28, IRNA — Foreign and domestic reporters and journalists were taken on a tour of the northern and parts of the southern Majnun Islands today and on their way back they crossed the 13 km Khaybar bridge linking the northern island with Iranian territory.

Equipped with gas masks for possible Iraqi chemical attack, the reporters inspected an area in the northern island contaminated by an iraqi chemical air raid on Tuesday. Iranian anti-chemical units were defusing some of the unexploded chemical bombs and spraying anti-chemical agents. They were wearing special suits and masks.

The reporters also saw oil wells which Iraq had planned to exploit in the Islands.

The Islamic combatants took the reporters to an observation tower on the western bank of the northern island where they could see the strategic Basra-'Amarah highway a few km away as well as nearby villages.

During the tour Iraqi planes carried out more than eight air raids on the islands but each time they dropped their bombs aimlessly from very high altitude in order to escape heavy fire from dozens of Iranian anti-aircraft batteries in the region.

The seven hour-tour came to an end when the reporters were driven across the 13 km Khaybar bridge which connects the northern Majnun Islands to the Jofeyr region of Iran through marsh lands divided between Iran and Iraq.

On Tuesday night, the reporters were taken to a temporary POW camp in a warehouse just outside Ahvaz and they were able to interview many of POWS, including officers, on how they were captured and the Iraqi Army's use of chemical weapons. The reporters returned to Tehran this evening.

Iraqi Prisoners Led Through Streets of Ahvaz
LD282212 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] More than 1,000 Iraqi prisoners captured by Islam's forces during the victorious Khaybar operations prior to their departure to other Iranian camps were passed through the streets of Ahvaz. The martyre-nurturing, ever-present, on-the-scene citizens of Ahvaz, congregating on the pavements and chanting "War, War till Victory!, Death to the United States!, Death to the USSR!, Death to Israel!, Death to Saddam!," once again confirmed their wrath against the superpowers and toward the continuation of the war until the final victory of Islam and the overthrow of the Ba'th Party.

According to the same report, the Iraqi prisoners chanted the slogans "Death to Saddam!" and "Victory to Islam!" demonstrating their wrath against Saddam and his backers.

Anti-Iraqi Revolutionary Operations Reported
GF280921 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] The Muslim Iraqi revolutionaries have launched a surprise attack on a group of the forces of the regime that is ruling Iraq in the region of Tawuq, northern Iraq, which resulted in the killing of four Saddamists.

In the region of Ban Shahr, which is located in northern Iraq, the Iraqi Muslim revolutionaries attacked a headquarters belonging to the regime that has the dominion over Iraq. The attack resulted in the killing of six Saddamist mercenaries.

The Iraqi Muslim revolutionaries also attacked a vehicle carrying Saddamist security forces in the city of Al-Mawsil, northern Iraq. They killed four of the security forces of the ruling regime in Iraq.

Telephone Lines Cut to Office in Washington

LD281812 Tehran IRNA in English 1755 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] Washington, March 28, IRNA — The U.S. Foreign Ministry cut the telephone connection to the office of the Iranian interest section here Tuesday, without any prior notice or any reason whatsoever. The measure is taken by the U.S. Administration, in the wake of the recent overtures between Washington and Baghdad.

The head of the office of the Iranian interest section here, said today, that the U.S. State Department's hostile attitude in reducing the number of the telephone lines at the disposal of the office from 40 to only 10 has created problems for the Iranians and others who refer to the office. The office of the Iranian interest section is situated at the Algerian Embassy in Washington after the severing of ties between the U.S. and Iran. This office attends to the affairs of the Iranians residing in the U.S.

Foreign Ministry Unit Visits Benin, Sierra Leone

LD290839 Tehran IRNA in English 0824 GMT 29 Mar 84

[Text] Tehran, March 29 IRNA — Iranian political economic delegation headed by deputy foreign minister for international and economic affairs, Hoseyn Kazempur Ardebili, who is currently touring some western African countries arrived in Sierra Leone Tuesday. He is delivering President Khamene'i's messages to heads of state of these countries.

In his meeting with vice president and foreign minister of Sierra Leone, Ardebili outlined latest positions of the Islamic Republic in the Iraqi imposed war and Iraqi deployment of chemical weapons against Iran. He said that the condemnation of Iraq for its use of the chemical weapons which was banned according to international conventions and regulations were the best means to prevent future deployment.

Ardebili also said that the holding of such meetings would further expand relations in political, economic and cultural fields with African states.

The foreign minister of Sierra Leone in the meeting praised Iran's anti-racism stance in international circles, adding that after the culmination of the Islamic Revolution, the Islamic Republic stood beside African people.

Prior to Iranian delegation's arrival at Sierra Leone, it had visited Benin where it met and conferred with the president, minister of planning and deputy foreign minister of that country.

The meetings in the countries visited so far have also been attended by Iranian ambassadors to these African states as well as Foreign Ministry's political director general for Arab and African countries, Hoseyn Lavasani.

In the meeting [President] Matheiu Kerekou of Benin condemned deployment of chemical weapons and announced his support for the Islamic Republic's stance. He also praised role of Imam Khomeyni in the victory and the dissemination of the Islamic Revolution.

To Attend Toure Funeral

LD291032 Tehran IRNA in English 0909 GMT 29 Mar 84

[Text] Tehran, March 29, IRNA — Deputy Foreign Minister in charge of economic and international affairs Kazempur Ardebili currently visiting some West African countries arrived in Guinea to attend funeral ceremonies of the late President Ahmed Sekou Toure, Thursday. He is carrying President Khamenei's condolences message too.

President Sekou Toure passed away on Monday from a heart attack in a hospital in the United States.

Foreign Ministry Official Holds Talks in Turkey

LD281822 Tehran IRNA in English 1628 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] Ankara, March 28, IRNA — The director general for consular affairs of the Islamic Republic Foreign Ministry, 'Abdollah Zifan handed over the written message of the Iranian foreign minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati to his Turkish counterpart Vahit Halefoglu here today.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry official who arrived here Monday at the head of a delegation held separate meetings with Turkey's interior and foreign affairs ministers. In his meetings with Turkey's foreign ministry officials for consular affairs, bilateral issues between the two countries were discussed.

Meanwhile, the Iranian delegation also met with Turkey's minister of justice today.

Delegation to IPU Conference Departs for Geneva

LD281136 Tehran IRNA in English 1033 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] Tehran, March 28, IRNA — An Iranian Majlis delegation set out for Geneva, Switzerland, Wednesday for participation in 71st session of Inter-Parliamentary Union Conference [IPU] to be held there from April 1 to 7. Disarmament, population and development issues are topics which the conference will deal with.

Parliamentary delegations from 90 countries are scheduled to participate in the conference. Ahmad Attari and (Ataollah Mohajerani) are members of the Iranian delegation.

Ship Detained in Italy Reportedly Has Arms for Iran

LD281241 Kuwait KUNA in English 1134 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] Rome, March 28 (KUNA) — A Genoa daily disclosed Tuesday that the arms shipment aboard the *Viking* ship detained in the Italian port of Sicily for the last three weeks was destined for Iran. Quoting what it described as one of the intelligence agencies investigating the 18-ton arms and explosives shipment, the Genoa daily *"SICOLO"* said the unidentified vessel left the Israeli port of Haifa on February 29 en route to Tehran via turkey.

The eight-man crew of the detained ship declined to give any information on the dangerous shipment or country of origin or destination of the shipment.

According to intlligence sources, which the daily did not disclose, the arms shipment included Israeli-made munitions and anti-aircraft shells fitting outmoded American-made artillery which Iran's revolutionary government inherited from the deposed shah's regime.

The arms deal was concluded by a senior Iranian Government official, whom the daily declined to name with an anonymous arms trafficking dealer, for the purchase of 155mm calibre artillery shells from Israel.

The daily explained the presence of the *Viking* in the Italian waters as "routine" in arms trafficking saying the crew is normally changed half-way to hide the country of origin and final destination of the shipment. This, the newspaper concluded, explained the presence of the British captain who was apprehended in Catania while he was on his way to Messina to take command of the *Viking* and head with it for Iran.

Prime Minister Addresses Guards Corps on Role

LD281133 Tehran IRNA in English 1040 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] Tehran, March 28, IRNA — Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi said Tuesday that dominant objectives in a given society, determined efforts of the people of the society.

The prime minister who was speaking to members of the ideological unit of the Imam Husayn Garrison of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps and other personnel of the garrison, added that in wicked societies all the objectives were false. For instance under the former regime, accumulation of wealth was considered a supreme value which immensely affected people's way of thinking, life and relations. Such phenomenon, he added, was presently dominant in all societies without divine system. It is domination of such pseudo and negative values which justified presence of American forces in Vietnam and Lebanon and also massacre of their people.

One of the main purposes of any revolution, he told the visitors, was changing of the ruling values in the society. This change has taken place in Iran following the victory of the Islamic revolution in 1979. One of the prevailing values in the country now is the spirit of self-sacrifice.

Further in his speech he added that the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps in addition to defending their motherland and the borders and fighting off the enemy of the revolution, have been stabilising the ideological and divine values in the society. One of the most important responsibilities of the corps was to safeguard Islamic values.

Guards Deputy Commander, Minister Brief President

LD281227 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] Deputy Guards Corps Commander Shamkhani and Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps Minister Rafiqdust met this morning with President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i. They delivered to the head of the Supreme Defense Council reports detailing events on the fronts of the war for truth against falsehood, activities concerning the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps, and also the guards' military (?industries), to which the president offered guidance as necessary.

The Reconstruction Crusade minister also met with President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i. He reported on progress in reconstruction and new rural housing projects in war-stricken areas and on the people's reconstruction and mobilization role in the agricultural sector. The president offered guidance as necessary.

Guardians Council Warns Against Early Campaigning

GF290703 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 29 Mar 84

[Text] The supervisory body of the Guardians Council in a statement announced that it has come to its notice that some of the candidates for the Majlis from the Tehran constituencies have started campaigning, including giving press interviews, making speeches in public, and distributing posters and placards. Such activities prior to 31 March are against the instructions contained in Article 56 of the election to the Isalmic Majlis law and are considered a breach of the law. The supervisory body of the Guardians Council of Tehran Province will take legal action against such activities and every such offense will be referred to the court.

Measures Taken for Fair Donations Distribution

GF290628 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 29 Mar 84

[Text] According to a report by the Central News Unit, the minister of the Reconstruction Crusade met Ayatollah Montazeri yesterday and held talks with him. During the meeting, a report was submitted on reconstruction projects in the imposed warfronts and on total preparedness of the Reconstruction Crusade to set up an Army, Guards Corps, and Reconstruction Crusade headquarters to look into the matter of lack of coordinating the distribution of donations by the people for the warfronts. Laying stress on keeping the Reconstruction Crusade away from the dangers of red-tapism and unnecessary formalities, Ayatollah Montazeri expressed hope that by setting up a joint Army, Guards Corps, and Reconstruction Crusade head-

quarters, donations of the people will be distributed in a just and fair way and on the basis of the needs of the fronts.

According to these reports, the Friday imams of Minab, Khvor, and Biabanak and Hojjat ol-Eslam Salehi Najafabadi and Sajjadi, heads of the seminaries of Najafabadi, met Ayatollah Montazeri and held talks with him. In this meeting the Friday imam of Khvor and Biabanak handed over to Ayatollah Montazeri 1,050,000 rials in addition to pieces of gold and silver which the people of that area had donated for the war effort.

Government Employees To Receive Gold Coin Bonus

LD280949 Tehran IRNA in English 0840 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] Tehran, March 28, IRNA — The recent decision of the government to give the "spring of freedom" coins to the government employees, would result in a decrease of gold prices throughout the country, thus lowering the price of most goods, stated governor of the central bank of Islamic Republic of Iran. Speaking to IRNA today, he also said that the coins would be given to one and a half million employees as a new year's bonus to those eligible to receive them. He further said that the coins would be given until the end of the Iranian current month (April 20).

Mines, Metals Minister Outlines Projects

LD281809 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] Tehran, March 28, IRNA — Mines and Metals Minister Hoseyn Nili-Ahmadabadi said here today that his ministry successfully completed a series of studies on Iran's mineral resources in conjunction with geological institute of Iran, recently. He said the studies proved especially helpful for determining the country's resource of alunite, Kaolin, Phosphates, and certain other minerals.

Nili-Ahmadabadi noted that during the current Iranian year (ending March 20, 1985) efforts will have to be taken in order to better utilize discovered mineral resources or mines which are not yet put to good use at all. The task he said would naturally involve fresh investment.

The Mines and Metals Ministry oversees basic industrial projects such as production of steel, copper, aluminium, lead, zinc, and others. It directs mining operations, processing of ores, smelting and rolling of the metals.

During the past Iranian year (ending March 20) the ministry was instrumental in putting to operation a second high furnace of a steel mill in Esfahan, and a refinery plant for Sarcheshmeh copper industries. It also helped double the country's production of Aluminium, and put to operation two plants for producing lead and zinc.

The mines and metals minister said also that his ministry will be executing projects for putting to operation additional rolling mills at Esfahan steel mill, as well as activating other large scale industries such as Mubarakeh steel complex in Esfahan and steel complex of Ahvaz in order to make the country self-sufficient during the next five years.